

CIVIL SERVICE DENOUNCED.

A Resolution Passed to Investigate the Administration of the Law.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE TARIFF DEBATE

Dolliver Announces the House Will Have a Humorous Speech-Senator Turpin Argues in Favor of the Election of Senators by the People.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21.—The Senate indulged today in an almost one-sided denunciation of the civil service law and its administration. The latter came up in the shape of a resolution offered by Mr. Allen, directing the Committee on Civil Service to inquire into the dismissal of some half dozen employees (misnomers) of the Bureau of Animal Industry in South Omaha, Neb. His assertion was that the dismissals were for political reasons.

Mr. Gallinger did not favor the proposed investigation because it would bring out so many hundred other like grievances, and Mr. Hearst objected to it on the same grounds, saying that such a herculean task should not be thrown on any committee at this special session. The civil service law, as administered, was characterized by Mr. Gallinger as "a monumental humbug." He favored blotting out the law and returning to a condition of things that would give every man and woman an equal right to hold office with every other man and woman.

THE EXAMINATIONS.

This declaration of principle was applauded by the galleries, and the galleries were appropriately lectured by the Vice-President on that breach of propriety. Various instances of absurdities in civil service examinations were furnished by senators—Mr. Gallinger mentioning the requirement of a composition by the Government Printing Office that they should keep twelve times on one foot, Mr. Wilson saying that civil service examinations had been ordered in the State for a cook in the penitentiary and a sawyer on an Indian reservation; and even Mr. Hawley, who had been a member of the House Committee, which reported the law originally, admitting that the law "had fallen into a state of complete incompetency," and giving as an illustration the fact that when an army engineer officer in charge of a public work on Long Island Sound had selected a competent inspector in the person of a steamfitter, who knew every rock and sand-bar in the neighborhood, the commission sent to him "a school master from Rhode Island."

The only Senator who defended the law and its administration was Mr. Lodge. The upshot of it all was that Mr. Allen's motion was agreed to without a division, but amended so as to instruct the committee on civil service and retrenchment to inquire and report whether the civil service law should be continued, amended or repealed.

ELECTION OF SENATORS.

Mr. Turpin (Dem. of Indiana), made an argument in favor of a constitutional amendment to make United States Senators elective by popular vote instead of by the State legislatures. He summed up his argument in these words:

"The pending amendment is in strict accordance with the great precedent of providence and advance set forth in the preamble and the Constitution. Our purpose is to form a more perfect Union by bringing the national legislature into complete accordance with the legislative assembly of the States; to establish a more direct line of communication between the people and the Congress; to give the people a more direct voice in the selection of the Senators; to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity by a further and nobler recognition of duties and rights inherent in all citizens; and to secure the supremacy of the law over the passions of the moment, and to maintain, shall at last become a vital force, a living presence, a fact accomplished in the government of the Republic. This will give to our past its full merit; to the future hope yet more abundant; for the present it would place a fixed star in the pathway of progress, visible in all the altitudes of liberty throughout the world."

At the close of Mr. Turpin's remarks the Senate went into executive session. After a short time the doors were reopened and legislative business was resumed.

BILLS PASSED.

These three bills were passed by the Senate: Directing the Secretary of War to supply a list of the names of all who have the right to receive the bounty in the Mississippi river.

To establish the official survey of fractional townships in Nebraska; to amend the act repealing the timber culture laws.

The latter bill was explained by Mr. Hearst, who said the same was passed by both houses last session, but which the President has been "too busy" to sign. The Torrey bankruptcy bill (modified) was reported and passed.

A House amendment to make the 30th of April inauguration, was introduced by Mr. Hearst.

At 5:30 o'clock, the Senate adjourned until tomorrow.

IN THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21.—The second day's debate on the bill to amend the act repealing the timber culture laws, which was explained by Mr. Hearst, was and is correct that up to this time the debate, compared to those which preceded it, was of the most uninteresting nature and uninteresting.

The event of the day was the speech of Mr. Dolliver. He held the attention of the whole House, Republicans and Democrats alike, for over an hour, and kept his hearers laughing nearly from start to finish by his humorous descriptions of the effects of free trade or tariff for revenue laws. His eloquent periods in advocacy and defense of the protective tariff policy aroused his political associates to a high state of enthusiasm.

Other speeches in favor of the bill were made by Messrs. Gibson (Rep. of Tennessee), Lacey, and Newlands, the latter of whom spoke in opposition to the bill. The bill was made by Mr. Dockery, who attacked the agricultural schedule, particularly and Mr. McLaughlin, who advocated a tariff on cotton and rice and announced his opposition to the policy on free raw material.

He demanded that the cotton planter should not be plundered by the whole world while the wheat grower was protected against his neighbor. He expressed his belief that a duty of 21-1/2 cents per pound on all imported cotton and wool

PREPARING THEIR REPORTS.

The Retrenchment Committee Made Great Progress Last Night.

TIDE OF BUSINESS FLOWED SMOOTHLY

In Nearly Every Case the Committee Has Affirmed Its Previous Action, and Those Who Escaped Reduction Before Again Went Free—The Details.

Six members of the Retrenchment and Reform Committee were on hand last night to promote the work of economy. They were Messrs. Allen (chairman), Noble, Zimmerman, Harrison, John J. King, and Ebel. The absentees were Messrs. Stark, Jones and Rountree, the latter being absent from the city on business. Mr. Starke was unable to attend on account of the sickness of his wife.

The committee at once took up the work of formulating a report to the City Council, and began by re-affirming its action reducing the commission of the City Collector from 7-8 to 5-8 of 1 per cent.

THE SINKING FUND.

In regard to the Sinking Fund Committee, which had been thoroughly investigated by the committee, but no recommendations made, it was decided on motion of Mr. Noble, after Captain Carrington had fully explained the charter provisions bearing on the question, to recommend that the committee, not having complied with the law requiring them to make an annual report to the Council since 1871, they be required to do so in the future, and that the City Attorney be requested to prepare such amendments to the City Charter, for presentation to the City Council, as will require the sinking fund to be paid semi-annually.

The question next taken up was the office of City Clerk and Clerk to the Board of Aldermen, and Mr. Ebel moved that the salary be allowed to remain as at present. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Allen voted "No" for the reason that he wished to reserve the right to vote for a pro-rata reduction of all salaries. Mr. Ebel then moved that the resolution be reconsidered whereby Mr. McDowell was designated as assistant to the City Clerk, for the reason that while Mr. McDowell would not have time to do the duties of the City Clerk, the public would consider that two men were doing the work hitherto done by one.

The motion of Mr. Ebel was carried. He then moved that the Clerk to the Board of Aldermen be paid the salary of \$1,000 per annum, and that the City Attorney be paid the salary of \$1,000 per annum, and that the City Clerk be paid the salary of \$1,000 per annum.

THE POLICE COURT.

The Police Court was next considered, and Mr. Harrison moved that no change be made in that department. Mr. King opposed the motion. There were too many men in the court room, he said.

"There is no need for the bailiff," said Mr. King. "I don't see what he has to do."

Mr. Noble said that he had looked into the matter, and found that the bailiff had a number of duties to perform, such as cleaning up the office of the justice and the courtroom, and to preserve order during the sessions of the court.

"There are half a dozen bailiffs there every morning," said Mr. King, "and every one of them is a damned nuisance. I don't see why there should be a bailiff to preserve order. It seems to me that here is the place for us to save \$300."

The room could be cleaned up by the janitor of that part of the City Hall, he moved, therefore, that the office of bailiff be done away with.

Mr. Ebel did not think that any change was advisable, and Mr. Zimmerman was under the impression that the Police Justice had stated that he could not get along without the bailiff.

Mr. Ebel moved as a substitute for Mr. King's motion that the question of the bailiff be referred to the City Council.

The motion was agreed to, and Mr. King was allowed to appear before the committee.

"Mr. Chairman," said Captain King, rising, "we have been meeting here for seven or eight months, and if we are going to listen to the committee, we are going to adjourn to-night and never meet again."

Mr. King's motion was then put and was lost on a vote. Messrs. King, Allen and Harrison voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Harrison's motion to retire the bill was then put, and the committee in reducing the salary of the Secretary to the Board of Sinking Fund Commissioners to \$300 was reaffirmed, as was also the resolution requiring the clerk to the Auditor to perform the duties of transfer clerk.

Without additional comment, Mr. Noble withdrew his motion to reconsider the action of the committee in reducing the salary of the Auditor to \$1,000, and decided to allow it to remain at \$1,200 as at present.

The recommendation of the committee to the City Council, in addition to his present duties, perform those of superintendent of the City Hall, and the City Attorney, Mr. Ebel, who fills the latter position at a salary of \$1,200, be dispensed with, was re-affirmed, on the motion of Mr. Noble.

THE CITY ATTORNEY.

The question of the City Attorney's salary came next, and Mr. Ebel moved that the salary be allowed to remain as at present.

"I move to amend that by fixing the City Attorney's office hours from 9 to 2," said Mr. Noble.

Mr. Zimmerman said that if this motion should become a law Mr. Meredith would refuse to remain in the office unless his salary were increased, which the city was hardly prepared to do.

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RELIEF OF THE SUFFERERS.

The Work of Handling Donations Systematized in Memphis.

MEAGRE REPORTS FROM TRIBUTARIES

Of the Mississippi—Nothing Known of the Fate of Many in the Low Lands of Arkansas—Little Improvement, Fresh Breeds in Levees.

ST. LOUIS, MO., March 21.—Acting upon an appeal from Governor Jones, of Arkansas, for assistance the Merchants' Exchange of this city today subscribed \$2,000 for the relief of the flood sufferers. This money and future donations will be handed over to the Memphis Relief Committee. Statements from Mayor W. L. Clapp and Chief of Police E. H. Mosley, of Memphis, were received by the exchange. The Mayor says that nearly all the refugees come from Arkansas. The Chief says that Memphis has two funds to draw upon—balances left from the yellow fever fund, and the cash donated for the Johnston (Pa.) flood sufferers, neither of them being exhausted.

AT HELENA. The following telegram from the Mayor of Helena, Ark., was also read:

"Helena, Ark., March 21. The danger point has been reached and passed. We are in such shape now that we can take care of our own people. No matter how high it goes we can keep above it. I, therefore, wish to allay the alarm that has been spread abroad regarding the situation here."

Reports also were received from Crittenden and Mississippi counties, Ark. Dispatches from many points in the flooded section show but slight changes from yesterday.

Reports also were received from New Madrid, Mo., Columbus and Paducah, Ky., and Metropolis, Ill. The greatest increase was at Paducah. That town is now an island and only reached by one railroad, the Illinois Central.

At noon today the gauge at Memphis read exactly 25 feet and was stationary, but rises at points above and below there show that the steady gauge was caused by levee breaks at Hopfield and St. Francis in Arkansas.

SOUTH OF HELENA.

South of Helena to Chicago there is scarcely any more effort to save the levees. At Modon the break is now nearly a mile wide. The levees in Mississippi are being broken, and better aligned to resist the higher than those on the west bank of the river and the area under water is much less. The worst break is below Priests' Point, but cross levees restrict the overflow.

Reports from Greenville, Miss., says the Sunflower river is as wide and full of water as the Mississippi at ordinary stages, and that the sluggish Yazoo river is now a raging torrent.

Rescue work continues unabated from Vicksburg, Helena, Memphis, and Hickman, Ky. Steamer expeditions never return fruitless, and it would seem that only a start had been made to save the suffering. The misery undergone by these people is beyond description. Saturday evening the bodies of three were not prepared for the calamity that came so suddenly. All are without extra clothing, and many have not eaten a morsel for twenty-four hours, when rescued.

THEIR FATE UNKNOWN.

A startling statement by a river pilot is published here today. He says: "All the rescue work seems to be done on the Mississippi river. Nothing is known of the fate of the poor people in the low lands of the Arkansas, and Black rivers in Arkansas. When the death roll is made up it will be largely from these villages."

BREATHS IN THE LEVEES.

A special from Cairo, Ill., says there has been a break in the levee at Cottonwood Point, another at the mouth of the Mississippi, and still another at Caruthersville.

Tipton and Darnell Point, are the only landings boats can make between Cincinnati and Memphis. Chief Engineer Starling was telegraphed to bring material to Memphis for a special train for work on the levees. Advice just in from Priests' Point, Miss., state that the levee at Australia broke yesterday. The extent of the break is not given.

The health authorities are considerably agitated over the condition of the refugees who are packed together in narrow quarters. Already a score of children are suffering from measles which threaten to become epidemic. It is now a growing work.

BELOIT, MO., March 21.—Conditions here are continually growing worse. All trains have been abandoned between here and Charleston since Thursday last. Mail connections are now made by transfer steamers between Beloit and St. Louis.

The water is three inches deep in the telegraph office, and if the river keeps rising the office will have to be abandoned there by cutting off communication.

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"We are receiving contributions from many generous people from other points and for which we express our deepest thanks. The uncertainty as to the length of time the present condition of affairs will exist makes the committee hesitate as to what course it should pursue in seeking to relieve the sufferers. Many of them are actually in need of aid. Some are able to take care of themselves. The exact needs cannot as yet be determined. Memphis so far has through its liberality sufficiently rendered the necessary aid and has funds to continue the good work for awhile."

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SWANSON TALKS TARIFF.

Showing That Production Has Increased Under the Present Law.

BOTH TAKE UNPLEASANT POSITIONS.

Senator Daniel Reintroduces the Locomotive Works Bill—and the Richmond College Claim—Captain Wise's Visit Had No Political Significance.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21.—Special.—The speech of Representative Swanson on the tariff bill this afternoon was an able and effective effort, for which he is being congratulated by his colleagues to-night. Mr. Swanson was exceedingly well prepared and his collection of statistics showing that the production has increased in this country since the enactment of the present law, refuting absolutely the claim of the Republicans that the bill had closed the furnaces and factories and generally resulted in disaster. He also showed that American commerce with foreign nations had increased since the passage of the Democratic bill.

A REPLY TO DOLLIVER.

His speech, coming as a reply to that of Mr. Dolliver, was particularly striking. Mr. Swanson went to even greater extremes than any of his colleagues have done in the way of attributing every evil from which the country suffered to the present tariff law.

It is unfortunate that the Democratic contention that the representatives of the party in the House, including Mr. Swanson, feel called upon to answer the statements of the Republicans concerning the causes of business depression by attributing it solely to the fact that the country has adhered to a sound money standard.

To this extent both parties base their conclusions upon untenable propositions. It is a mistake to suppose that the legislation to increase taxation and limit production will create wealth and restore prosperity. The Democrats argue that these results can be effected only by lowering the tariff, thus increasing the supply of money, but diminishing its value.

RICHMOND BILLS.

Senator Daniel re-introduced in the Senate today an amendment to the general deficiency bill, the claim of the Richmond Locomotive Works for compensation for government delay in the construction of the hull of the battleship Texas, also a bill embodying similar provisions, which was referred to the proper committee. For himself, he re-introduced, also as an amendment to the deficiency bill the claim of the Richmond College for damages sustained from Federal troops at the close of the late war.

THOMAS H. BOWEN, National Committee-man, George E. Bowen arrived here from Norfolk this morning. He will remain for a day or two.

Hon. John S. Wise was in the city today, doing business, in company with Colonel James D. Brady and spent some time in the Senate Marble Room in conversation with several senators. There visited had no political significance whatever. Captain Wise returned to New York this afternoon.

ANOTHER RELIEVE GRANTED.